

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Virtual Meeting  
December 7, 2021

**Called to Order at 6:01 p.m.** with Robyn Provost Carlson, Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese (joined the meeting at 6:24 p.m.) and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

**Others in Attendance:** See attendance sheet.

**Review of Agenda:** Added: Public Comment, meeting schedule, and propane tanks at Jacobs Road.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Review of Minutes:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021, as amended.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021, as amended.*

**Covid Concerns:**

Board of Health Stakeholder Meeting: Follow-up discussion from the Board of Health's stakeholder meeting for Covid-19 updates allowed the Board to state their opinion that there was useful information shared, some of which was provided from the staff of Community Public Health Services. The Board of Health had presented a suggestion of developing an advisory committee that would be comprised of members from the various boards and committees that are stakeholders in Covid protocol and trends. The Select Board expressed appreciation for the effort the Board of Health has made to increase communication with other municipal groups.

Office Relocation: Robyn reported that she had received a quote for constructing room dividers in the financial team room, but she could not open the document. It is hoped that it will be ready to review at the next meeting.

**Hilltown Youth Performing Arts:** The lease, along with comments from town counsel, will be reviewed in executive session and hopefully will be ready to send to Jonathan Diamond.

**FY23 Budget Planning:** The tentative calendar will be shared with the Finance Committee. The Board agreed that they want the committee to have an active roll in the budget preparation.

**6:24 p.m.** Brian De Vriese joined the meeting.

Hilma will communicate with the departments that there will be a Finance Committee member who will be available for one-on-one support and to answer questions. An email will be sent to each department with operating accounts with the respective budget worksheet and the Finance Committee letter.

**Broadband DocuSign:** Upon recommendation by the Municipal Light Board and affirmation that there were funds available, the Select Board approved payment of the invoice. *On a motion by Susan*

*Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the SERV—9 invoice from WG&E in the amount of \$24,390.88.*

**Energy Advisory Committee Appointment:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Ed Whitaker as a member to the Energy Advisory Committee.*

**Green Communities Update:** Brian reported that no proposal had yet been received from RISE Engineering for the Community Hall HVAC construction project. Alyssa Larose no longer is with FRCOG but someone else will be assigned to work with the town. The possibility of having to replace the existing propane tanks with larger tanks at Community Hall if the HVAC gets replaced, was mentioned.

**Jacobs Road Propane Tanks:** The Board reviewed a contract agreement for propane tank installation to supply the back-up generator. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the contract agreement with Osterman Propane contingent upon town counsel approving the lease terms.*

**Town Coordinator's Report:**

- Jacobs Road Generator: Conduit for electric hookup has been installed and cement pad was poured last Thursday. Waiting for it to be cured before setting generator in place and getting electric and propane connected.
- Crucial: Facilitated communications between the Board, the company and town counsel in the process of negotiating the terms of the Development Agreement and the HCAs. Conveyed signed documents to their legal counsel.
- Hilltown Youth Performing Arts: Had communications with Jonathan Diamond regarding terms of the lease. Discussed needs of town and safeguards for town with town counsel.
- KP Law: Correspondence and other communication with town counsel in regards to legal situations that the Town is presently having to address.
- Fire Department: Assisted Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni with preparing and submitting a grant for \$10,500 to purchase safety equipment. Department has lost some clothing gear lately due to rodents.
- CARES Act Relief: Filed the final report for the CARES Act Relief Funding. The money is no longer available to spend.
- Tax Classification Hearing: Coordinated with the Assistant Assessor and the Board to set a meeting for Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. for a brief meeting to vote on the FY22 tax classification.
- Highway Incident: On Friday afternoon, Highway personnel Jeff and Dohn responded to a dispatch call about a downed tree across Route 8A close to the Heath/Charlemont town line. Two first responders went to assist at the scene. While there, Jeff was operating the backhoe. A section of the tree swung through the side window of the backhoe, smashing the glass and causing other damage. It hit Jeff's leg but he only received a bump and bruise. Jeff has also filed an accident report with MIIA.

**Mail:**

- E. Whitaker re: request to join EAC
- L. Johnson Fuller re: remarks for long term lease
- P. Porter re: comments on lease and MOU
- S. Gruen re: comments from BoH stakeholders meeting
- J. Weigand re: comments on SB response and lawsuit

**Next Meetings:**

December 21: Finance Committee, Hawlemont Regionalization Study Team

December 28 & January 4: Robyn will be absent.

7:12 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to move to Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and the chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; and to reconvene in open session.*

*For deliberation and strategy for entering a long-term lease of space at the 18 Jacobs Road municipal building with Hilltown Youth Recovery Theatre.*

Susan Lively Aye                      Brian De Vriese Aye                      Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

7:26 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn executive session to be continued later that same evening and to reconvene in open session.*

Susan Lively Aye                      Brian De Vriese Aye                      Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

Planning Board members Doug Mason, Bob Viarengo, Jo Travis, Bill Gran and Peter Charow joined the meeting and called their own meeting to order.

7:32 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to convene Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3), To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declared, and to reconvene in open session.*

*For deliberation and strategy in New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mobility v. Town of Heath, Town of Heath Planning Board*

Susan Lively Aye                      Brian De Vriese Aye                      Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

10:12 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn executive session and reconvene in open session.*

Susan Lively Aye                      Brian De Vriese Aye                      Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

10:14 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to reconvene in Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and the chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; and to reconvene in open session.*

*For deliberation and strategy for entering a long-term lease of space at the 18 Jacobs Road municipal building with Hilltown Youth Recovery Theatre.*

Susan Lively Aye

Brian De Vriese Aye

Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator